

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 DRC-01 /136 W

----- 005886

R 181246Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5413

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC

COMUSSAG

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, CB

SUBJ: FORMER PRIME MINISTER SIM VAR EXPOSES HIS PEACE PLAN

REF: A. PHNOM PENH PENH 2880 (NOTAL)

B. PHNOM PENH 2850 (KHMER REPORT)

1. SUMMARY. FORMER PRIME MINISTER AND CURRENT GKR  
AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN SIM VAR TODAY (MAR 18) PRESENTED TO  
THE PRESS HIS PEACE PROPOSALS CALLING FOR WITHDRAWAL OF  
VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST TROOPS, A CEASE-FIRE, CESSATION OF  
FOREIGN AID FOR BOTH SIHANOUK AND LON NOL, AND THE FORMATION  
OF A NON-PARTY GOVERNMENT TO SUPERVISE ELECTIONS.  
HE THUS FORMALLY LAUNCHED AN INITIATIVE, WHICH HE HAS  
FLOATED INFORMALLY IN SEVERAL OTHER FORUMS.

2. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AT 1600 THIS AFTERNOON, KHMER  
ELDER STATESMAN SIM VAR MADE PUBLIC A FIVE-POINT PEACE  
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PLAN HE HAS PREVIOUSLY SENT BY LETTER TO MAJOR POLITICAL

FIGURES (REF A) AND HINTED AT IN THE PRESS (REF B).

ELEMENTS OF THE PLANE ARE:

A) RETREAT OF ALL VC/NVA TROOPS FROM KHMER TERRITORY  
UNDER THE CONTROL OF NEUTRAL ASIAN STATES WITH THE ASSISTANCE  
OF UN "BLUE HELMETS.";

B) CEASE-FIRE UNDER THE SAME CONTROL AND WITH THE SAME ASSISTANCE;

C) AN END OF ALL FOREIGN HELP TO SIHANOUK'S CAMP;

D) AN END OF ALL FOREIGN HELP TO LON NOL'S CAMP;

E) FORMATION OF A NON-PARTY GOVERNMENT CHARGED WITH  
HOLDING ELECTIONS UNDER THE SAME INTERNATIONAL CONTROL  
AND WITH THE SAME ASSISTANCE TO FORM A NEW CONSTITUENT  
ASSEMBLY.

3. IN QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION, SIM VAR SAID HE PROPOSED  
THE PLAN AS A SIMPLE CITIZEN WITHOUT POLITICAL  
PARTY AFFILIATION; HE ADDED THAT HE HAS NO PERSONAL  
POSSIBILITY OF COMMUNICATING HIS PLAN TO THE OTHER SIDE  
AND IS COUNTING ON THE PRESS FOR PUBLICITY. HE  
EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL CONTROL TO VERIFY  
THE DEPARTURE OF VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST FORCES AND ASSURE  
THAT FOREIGN SUPPORT FOR THE OTHER SIDE WOULD INDEED CEASE.  
NEUTRAL ASIAN STATES THAT QUALIFY FOR THE SUPERVISORY ROLE  
INCLUDE INDONESIA, BURMA, MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE, ACCORD-  
ING TO SIM VAR. HE ALSO DECLARED THAT THE UN HAS THE  
DUTY TO SUPPLY PEACE-KEEPING FORCES BECAUSE ITS ROLE IS  
THE REESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE IN THE WORLD AND ITS FAILURE  
TO FULFILL THAT ROLE WOULD BE "PLAYING THE GAME OF THE  
AGGRESSORS."

4. SIM VAR MADE MUCH OF THE NEED TO REPLACE THE 1972  
CONSTITUTION, WHICH HE BELIEVES IS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO THE  
OTHER SIDE AND WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED IN PRE-CONFERENCE  
REMARKS AS "UNJUST AND RACIST." (THAT CONSTITUTION EXCLUDED  
SIM VAR FROM CANDIDACY FOR PRESIDENT IN 1972 BECAUSE  
HIS WIFE IS NOT KHMER). THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY HE ENVISAGES  
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WOULD DRAFT A CONSTITUTION ALL KHMER CAN ACCEPT,  
SUBMIT IT TO REFERENDUM AFTER WHICH POLITICAL PARTIES  
COULD VIE FOR LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS. THE QUESTION OF  
REGIME WOULD HAVE TO BE SETTLED IN TALKS AND AT THE  
ASSEMBLY; SIM VAR NOTED THAT HE PREFERS THE REPUBLICAN  
FORM OF GOVERNMENT.

5. PEOPLE FOR THE NON-PARTY GOVERNMENT ARE NOT LACKING,

SIM VAR ASSERTED AND POINTED TO HIMSELF AS A MEMBER OF NO PART. HE VAGUELY CITED FACTIONALISM AMONG THE OTHER SIDE AS EVIDENCE THAT THEY TOO COULD PROVIDE CANDIDATES FOR A GOVERNMENT WITHOUT PARTY. HE DID NOT SEE ANY NEED TO "RECONGNIZE" THE OTHER SIDE TO GET TALKS STARTED, ARGUING THAT THEY COULD TALK WHENEVER THEY WANT TO.

6. SPEAKING FINALLY OF HIS OWN PLANS, SIM VAR SAID HE HAS RESIGNED AS AMBASSADOR TO TOKYO AND RESISTED EFFORTS BY LON NOL TO HAVE HIM STAY ON. HE PLANS TO RETURN TO JAPAN MAR 19, PACK AND SPEND TWO OR THREE MONTHS AT A WEST GERMAN SPA BEFORE REJARNING TO CAMBODIA.

7. COMMENT: SIM VAR'S DEPARTURE FROM THE COUNTRY TOWMORROW, IF IT OCCURS, SHOULD SERVE TO LIMIT TO MODERATE PROPOSRTIONS THE LOCAL REACTION TO HIS PROPOSAL. IN ANY CASE, THE CONTENTS WERE ALREADY RATHER WIDELY KNOWN IN PHNOM PENH. GKR WILL NO DOUBT REBUT HIM PROMPTLY. SEE ALSO OUR COMMENT IN REF A PARAGRAPHS FIVE AND SIX.  
ENDERS

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## Message Attributes

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